

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 10-17 are requested to be cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 18 and 19 are currently being amended. Claims 23-30 are being added. No new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 1-9 and 18-30 are pending in this application.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

In paragraphs 1-2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has restricted the application to Group I (claims 1-9 and 18-22), drawn to a method and Group II (claims 10-17), drawn to an exposure apparatus. Applicants confirm the election made in the telephone conference of July 25, 2003. Claims 10-17 are cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to prepare a divisional application on the subject matter of claims 10-17.

In paragraphs 4-5 of the Office Action, claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,876,904 ("Uetami"). The Examiner states:

Uetami teaches a process of forming a photoresist pattern whereby a photoresist layer is irradiated with two different wavelengths of light. The first irradiation forms a pattern in the top surface of the resist layer. A blanket exposures is used to further expose the resist layer. . . .

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

To advance prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 18 to recite a step associated with the original claim 19. The Examiner has indicated that claim 19 is patentable over Uetami. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 18 and its dependent claims 20-22 are patentable of the cited art.

Applicants have added claims 23-30. Claims 23-30 are directed to Group I (a method). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 23-30 are patentable over Uetami.

In Paragraph 6 of the Office Action, Claims 1-9 and 19-22 are allowed.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-9 and 23-30 are now pending in this application.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1447. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit

Account No. 06-1447. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

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